

By the King.



He Zeale and great affection, which we haue found in all sorts of people of this our Kingdome towards our Person, and that Right which we had to the succession of this Crowne, hath so many waies bene expessed, as we cannot chuse but make it manifest to them all by some publique declaration, how great a desire it hath wrought in our heart to shew our gracious acceptation of their deuotion towards vs, whensoever there shall be offered either occasion or subiect, that may concerne their vniuersall good. For though it be true, that our Right was so assured, that whatsoeuer testimonie could thereof be vttered, was but the duetie of Subiects, acknowledging that faith and loyalty whereunto by the Lawes of God and Nature they were bound: yet doe we confesse, that there is in the true rules of Justice from the Soueraigne to the Subiect, a reciprocall office and respect, which they are bound in honour and conscience to obserue. The consideration whereof, hath moued vs to thinke of such wayes, as for the present did occurre vnto vs, wherein we might make manifest to our people, how willing we are now, and will be ready hereafter, to be as forward in requiting their loue, as they haue bene in expressing it. In which consideration while wee were busied, wee were informed that the Queene our Sister deceased, finding some fewe yeeres before her death, that some things had passed her hand at the importunitie of her seruants, whom she was willing to reward with little burden to her estate (otherwise by necessary occasions exhausted,) which though they had and might haue foundation in Princely Prerogatiue, yet either by too large extending thereof, or for the most part in respect that they were of such nature, as could hardly bee put in vse without hinderance to multitudes of people, or else committed to inferiour persons, who in the execution thereof did so exceedingly abuse the same, as they became intollerable: Had purposed to reuoke all Grants of that nature, and did beginne with some, which were held most vniust, putting the rest to the examination of her Lawes to stand or fall, as in the construction of Law they might consist, or not. We, who though we had neuer had such an example, were euer opposite in our owne nature to any thing that had colour of oppression, holde it our part not onely carefully to perfect all her good intentions, but to study further by all good meanes, and with all expedition to put in practise all other courses whereby a people so louing, so dutifull, and so deare vnto vs, may know and feele that we are as desirous to make them happy by our Justice and grace towards them in all reasonable things, as they haue bene ready to increase our comfort and contentment in receiuing their loyalty and obedience towards our establishment in those Rights, which vnder God wee doe enjoy. Therefore wee doe expressly charge and commaund all persons whatsoeuer, That from henceforth they utterly desist and forbear to vse or execute any manner of Charter or Graunt made by our late Sister the Queene deceased, of any kind of Monopolies, or of any Power or Licence to dispence with, or discharge any manner of penall Lawes (except such Graunts onely, as haue bene made to any Corporation or Companie of any Art or Myserie, or for the maintenance or enlargement of any trade of merchandize) vntill such time as the same Charter or Grant shall be examined and allowed of by vs, with the aduise of our Counsell, to be fit to be put in execution, without any prejudice to our louing Subiects. And where heretofore many haue bene greatly prejudiced and delayed in suing for their debts and other dueties by sundry kinde of Protections, and by pretence of other Priuiledges and exemptions: We charge and commaund, and our expresse will and pleasure is, That no Protection, Priuiledge or exemption to delay any persons Suite or Action, shall from henceforth be receiued or allowed in any our Courts or elsewhere, which are or shall be contrary or repugnant to the Lawes of this Realme.

And furthermore, we will and command, that no assignements of Debts or Actions be made vnto vs by any that is, or pretendeth to bee indebted vnto vs, who is otherwise able and sufficient by himselfe, or by his Sureties, readily to pay the same Debt, nor any assignment taken to our vse of any Debt, other then such, as shall then appere to be a iust & true Debt. And for that wee are certainly informed of many great disorders and abuses, to the great griefe of our louing Subiects

as well by Salt-petemen and such as haue or pretend to haue Commission and Authority to make Salt-peter, as also by sundrie Purueyours and Takers of Carts and other prouisions for our vse and seruice: Therefore wee doe expresse charge and command, that the said Salt-petemen, Purueyours & Takers, haue especiall care to execute their Offices and Authorities without any manner of oppression, grieuance or wrong to be done to any our louing Subiects. And if they that haue the Commissions, shall abuse the execution of them contrarie to this our declaration, we are pleased that such, as shall be grieued therewith, shall resort to vs or our Councell with their complaints. And we doe also giue expresse charge and commaundement to all Lawyers, Attorneys, Officers and Clerkes, of and in any our Courts of Justice whatsoeuer, Ecclesiasticall or Temporall, that they nor any of them extort or take any vndue or excessive fees, but such onely as are allowed to be had or taken in the same Courts. And to the ende that our pleasure and commaundement may bee duly and effectually performed, and obserued in the premisles: wee doe hereby notifie and declare, that whosoever shall presume to breake or violate in any thing aforesayd our Royall commaundements, they shall thereby incurre our indignation and displeasure, And that vpon complaint and prooffe thereof made, we will not faile to proceede to such seuerer punishment against such offenders according to their demerits, as shall bee fit for so high and contemptuous an offence. These graces aboue specified, as we doe presently extend to our people, and doe intend others hereafter when we shall vnderstand more particularly wherein wee may yeelde them comfort: So because things wel-meant may in the manner of the execution of them be abused; and Complaints grounded vpon iust causes, may in the crauing of remedy be accompanied with offensive proceedings, we haue thought good to admonish our Subiects, that wee doe expect at their hands, that if in the things aboue specified, or in any other wherewith they shall find themselves grieued (which haue not yet come to our knowledge) they shall haue cause to seeke any thing at our hands, they shall forbear all assembling and flocking together in multitudes, but shall in lawfull and decent manner without numbers, without clamor, or any other kind of disorder, resort to vs or our Councell by way of humble Petition; from whom they shall receiue such answer, as shall make manifest the zeale we haue to the obseruation of Justice, and maintenance of their welfare, if their Complaints be iust. And on the other side, if we shall perceiue that their petitions shall sauour of humor, and tend only to slander and calumniation, and indeed haue no other foundation but such as often happeneth in vulgar people, vnder pretence of seeking publike redresses to vtter priuate malice: we would haue them vnderstand hereby, that they shall not onely displease vs therein, but finde that we hold it no lesse the Office of a Prince to Protect their Magistrates and Officers, and all publique persons in their iust causes, then to giue redresse to the vulgar sort, when they haue indeede cause to complaine, against all persons how great soeuer they be in rule or dignitie vnder vs: Reseruing to our selfe the Right iustly appertaining to our Prerogative, for that we would not haue it conceiued, that in doing these things out of our Grace, we doe intend to renounce those ancient dueties and Priuiledges, which haue descended vpon vs with the succession of our Kingdomes. And for that we are informed, that there hath bene heretofore great neglect in this Kingdome of keeping the Sabbath day: for better obseruing of the same, and auoyding of all impious prophanaion of it, wee do straightly charge and commaund, that no Beare-bayting, Bul-bayting, Enterludes, common Playes, or other like disordered or vnlawful Exercises or Pastimes be frequented, kept or vsed, at any time hereafter vpon any Sabbath day.

Giuen at our Court at Theobalds the 7. day of May, in the first
yeere of our Reigne.

God saue the King.

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